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OC 10071

63-121

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

-7 JAN 1963

SUBJECT : Security of Voice Communications Circuitry Between
the White House and Nassau

REFERENCE : DDCI Memo Dated 26 December 1962, Subject as Above ER 62-9440

1. The reference requested that we consider an appropriate course of action for Mr. McCone to take with reference to the use of international telephone service for passing classified information between the Presidential party at Nassau and senior U.S. officials in Washington.

2. The ideal solution to this problem is to provide the whole Presidential party, including all his advisors, with encrypted telephone and teletype facilities so that the use of normal telephone service is unnecessary. In the case of Nassau, the encrypted teletype service was very good but the encrypted telephone service (KY-9) did not work because the circuitry to Nassau was not of sufficient quality to support a KY-9 communications link. This device requires circuits of very high quality which are not available through the normal communications facilities overseas.

3. In discussing this problem with NSA and the White House Communications Agency, we all feel that the following represents the best course of action on this matter.

a. The long-range solution is the development of voice equipment which will work on standard international phone circuits. This is the current objective of a considerable amount of research and development effort by NSA and the military services. There is not much Mr. McCone could do to aid in this development except express an intelligence information interest in it to give those working on the problem some moral support. I'll have such a letter prepared if you so desire.

b. The White House Signal Agency normally provides on-line enciphered teletype circuitry between the White House and the Presidential party. This is available to anyone in the Presidential party. Colonel McNally, the Commanding Officer of WHSA indicates that he could extend this service on a teleconference basis to the offices of the particular Government agencies who have representation in the Presidential party provided arrangements were made for this in advance. This would provide an informal method of communications to and from the Presidential party which would be secure.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

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c. The temptation to use the telephone for obtaining fast answers and to make quick decisions while a conference is in session, such as the Nassau conference, is great. About all Mr. McCone could do to limit this hazard is to request that the members of the Presidential party be cautioned about it. To emphasize this hazard Mr. McCone may wish to refer to the known Soviet COMINT collection effort which is now located in Cuba. Information about the existence of this activity is conclusive. A letter to the members of the NSC from Mr. McCone concerning this hazard would appear to be appropriate. A suggested draft of such a letter is attached.

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 H. M. McCLELLAND
Director of Communications

Attachment:
Draft of a Letter

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SECRET CIA RDP80B01676R003100240017-6

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the National Security Council

I am very concerned that the members of the National Security Council and their senior staff advisors be aware of the hazards to U.S. security in the use of normal telephone service for discussions of sensitive information. The numerous phone conversations between Nassau and Washington recently could be of particular danger to U.S. security.

Although we have no indications of any actual intercepts, we do know that the Soviets now have a sizable operating COMINT collection activity located in Cuba. The evidence of their efforts there comes to us from numerous sources and is very conclusive.

I would suggest you inform your senior staff members of this particular hazard and caution them to restrict the use of normal phone service to unclassified subjects. The futility of using double-talk should also be emphasized.

JOHN A. McCONE

Re: J. A. McCone

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM
UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE
1	ER.		
2			
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks: <i>This has been awaiting by events. In the event there is another meeting where communications are not available, we may need again.</i>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
			20 MAR 1963
Executive Director			
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